

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A system for the selection of voice messages for delivery to a voice service subscriber, comprising:

a detection module, the detection module sensing a state of a call pickup sequence
5 of a telephone call delivering a voice message; and

a selection module, communicating with the detection module, the selection module selecting at least one of a plurality of voice messages to deliver according to the state of the call pickup sequence detected by the detection module.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the state of a call pickup sequence
10 comprises a plurality of possible states, and each of the possible states of the call pickup sequence is associated with at least one of the plurality of messages.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the detection module comprises a tone detection module, and each tone detected by the tone detection module is associated with at least one of the possible states.

15 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the tone detection module senses at least one of an answering machine tone, a facsimile machine tone, and a modem tone.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the state of the call pickup sequence comprises at least one of receipt by an answering machine, receipt by a facsimile machine, receipt by a modem, and receipt by a person.

10072698.001202

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the plurality of voice messages are differentiated according to whether the call pickup sequence indicates receipt by a machine or receipt by a person.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the voice messages for receipt by a machine are differentiated by reduced content from the voice messages for receipt by a person.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein a recipient is queried for validation information.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the validation information is provided by at least one of voice input and keypad input.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein a secondary recipient is authorized to receive at least one of the plurality of voice messages.

11. The system of claim 1, further comprising an interface to an authorization database, the authorization database storing entries associating each of the plurality of possible states with at least one of the plurality of messages for delivery upon detection of the corresponding state.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the selection module aborts the delivery of the voice message when the state of the call pickup sequence does not meet at least a minimum authorization criterion stored in the authorization database.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of an administrator and the voice service subscriber may alter the association between the state of the call pickup sequence and the at least one of the plurality of voice messages.

14. A method for the selection of voice messages for delivery to a voice service subscriber, comprising:

(a) detecting a state of a call pickup sequence of a telephone call delivering a voice message; and

(b) selecting at least one of a plurality of voice messages to deliver according to the state of the call pickup sequence detected in step (a).

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the state of the call pickup sequence comprises a plurality of possible states, and each of the possible states is associated with at least one of the plurality of voice messages.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step (a) of detecting comprises a step of (c) detecting a tone, and a step (d) of associating each detected tone with at least one of the possible states.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step (c) of detecting a tone comprises the step of (e) detecting at least one of an answering machine tone, a facsimile machine tone, and a modem tone.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the state of the call pickup sequence comprises at least one of receipt by an answering machine, receipt by a facsimile machine, receipt by a modem, and receipt by a person.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising a step of (f) differentiating the voice messages according to whether the call pickup sequence indicates receipt by a machine or receipt by a person.

20. The method of claim 14, further comprising a step of (g) differentiating the voice messages for receipt by a machine by reduced content from the voice messages for receipt by a person.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising a step of (h) querying a recipient for validation information.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising a step of (i) receiving the validation information by at least one of voice input and keypad input.

23. The method of claim 14, further comprising a step of (j) authorizing a secondary recipient to receive at least one of the plurality of voice messages.

24. The method of claim 14, further comprising a step of (k) interfacing to an authorization database, the authorization database storing entries associating each of the plurality of possible states with at least one of the plurality of messages for delivery upon detection of the corresponding states.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising a step of (l) aborting the delivery of the voice message when the state of the call pickup sequence does not meet at least a minimum criterion stored in the authorization database.

26. The method of claim 14, further comprising a step of (m) altering the association between the state of the call pickup sequence and the at least one of the plurality of voice messages.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176